(b) The details of Mangrove cover in Andhra Pradesh as per State of Forest, 2003 is as follows:

Sl. No.	District	Area under Mangrove Cover (km^2)	(acres)
1.	East Godavari	188	46,456.68
2.	Guntur	47	11,614.17
3.	Krishna	93	22,981.23
4.	Prakasham	1	247.11
	TOTAL:	329	81,299.19

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The mangroves are protected through a range of regulatory measures like Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991; Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies under the ELA Notification, 1994 for specialized industries, and monitoring of compliance of conditions imposed while according Environmental Clearance by Regional Offices of the Ministry and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs); and enforcement of emission and effluent standards by industries and other entities by the SPCBs. Mangroves located within the notified forest areas are also covered by the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Deficient forest cover in Punjab, Haryana, U.P., etc.

351. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab, Haryana, UP and other parts of Northern India, being mainly agricultural areas, are markedly deficient in Forest-Tree-Cover (FTC);

(b) whether declining prices of wood in the context of free import of wood under OGL presents added disincentive to farm-forestry;

(c) if so, whether with the twin objectives of increasing Forest-Tree-Cover (FTC) and generating viable employment opportunities, the

Government of Punjab and other State Governments have requested the Centre to provide incentives to farm-forestry while imposing countervailing duties on import of wood and wood products; and

(d) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the 'State of Forest Report, 2003' (SFR,2003), published biennially by Forest Survey of India, the Forest and Tree Cover in Punjab, Haryana and U.P. is 6.33%, 6.63% and 9.06% of the geographic area of these States respectively, which is less than the National Average of Forest and Tree Cover (23.68%).

(b) to (d) Eucalyptus and Poplar are the two main species grown under farm-forestry in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. A decline in the market price of Poplar was reported in the last five years. However, this trend is now reversed, and the price of Poplar has reached almost the same level as was prevailing five years ago. The price of Eucalyptus has been more or less stable. No formal proposal/request has been received in the Ministry from the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. A National Workshop was organised in Chandigarh by the Forest Department of Haryana to highlight the importance of agro-forestry. One of the recommendations of the Workshop relates to the review of the Import Policy by the Central Government to promote agro-forestry produce and its export. To safeguard the interest of tree-growers/farmers the Ministry has constituted a Core Group to study the Applied Rate and Import Duty on Forestry products.

Ticketing system at Bangalore City Railway Station

352. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to increase the number of reservation and other ticket issuing counters for various trains departing from Bangalore City railway station;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce IT enable ticketing system at the station; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?